

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 16, 2018 AT 5:30PM



This evening's music is taken from the choral repertoire associated with Good Friday, as well as the arrangement of the Stabat Mater hymn familiar to English-speaking Catholics. The text for this devotion is found in the "Way of the Cross" booklets at the entrance of the church. Please note the instructions below.

- STATION I:** ALL SING "AT THE CROSS...", P. 5 IN "THE WAY OF THE CROSS"
- STATION II:** POPULE MEUS (TOMAS LUIS DE VICTORIA)
"My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!"
- STATION III:** POPULE MEUS (VICTORIA)
"Holy is God! Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us."
- STATION IV:** ALL SING "WOE-BEGONE...", P. 8 IN "THE WAY OF THE CROSS"
- STATION V:** CRUX FIDELIS (DOMENICO BARTOLUCCI)
"Faithful Cross! above all other, one and only noble Tree! None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peers may be." [I]
- STATION VI:** ALL SING "WHO, UNMOVED...", P. 10 IN "THE WAY OF THE CROSS"
- STATION VII:** MISERERE MEI, DEUS (CALVERT SHENK)
"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great mercy. And according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions." –Psalm 51:3
- STATION VIII:** ALL SING "SAW HER SON...", P. 12 IN "THE WAY OF THE CROSS"
- STATION IX:** ALL SING "FOUNT OF LOVE...", P. 13 IN "THE WAY OF THE CROSS"
- STATION X:** ALL SING "UNTO CHRIST...", P. 14 IN "THE WAY OF THE CROSS"
- STATION XI:** CRUX FIDELIS (BARTOLUCCI)
"Sweet the wood, sweet the nails, dear the burden they have borne." [II]
- STATION XII:** CHRISTUS FACTUS EST (ANERIO)
"Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the Name which is above every Name."
- STATION XIII:** ALL SING "IN THE PASSION...", P. 17 IN "THE WAY OF THE CROSS"

(continued on the reverse side)

STATION XIV: POPULE MEUS (VICTORIA)

“Holy immortal One, have mercy on us.” (*sung first in Greek, then Latin*)

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DEVOTION

WASH ME THOROUGHLY

SAMUEL SEBASTIAN WESLEY

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness: and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my faults: and my sin is ever before me. —Psalm 51:2, 3

ABOUT THIS EVENING’S REPERTOIRE

Our music is taken from the Good Friday liturgy of the Church. Victoria’s *Popule Meus* is the classic setting of the *Improperia* (or *Reproaches*) of the Good Friday service of the Roman Rite. Simple, yet profound; spare, yet softening the words—this work demonstrates why the Church puts polyphony (along with Gregorian chant) as the highest musical form of worship in the Liturgy. We also present Italian composer Felice Anerio’s setting of *Christus factus est*, the Gradual for Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Anerio assumed the role of composer for the *Cappella Sistina* after the death of Palestrina. His music is more homophonic (moving as one) than that of his predecessor and involves more contrast of rhythms and textures, all things that be hallmarks of the dawning Baroque period. His *Christus factus est* is frequently performed; it is compact, deriving its expression from its dissonance, used to “text-paint” the anguish Jesus Christ experienced in the garden and in the Crucifixion. The late Domenico Cardinal Bartolucci left his lovely setting of the *Crux Fidelis* for men’s choir and soprano solo, with verses for ladies’ choir. As these texts are often easily parsed, you will see from the descriptions that the pieces are sung in various sectional arrangements related to the specific stations prayed. The late Calvert Shenk was Organist-Choirmaster at this Cathedral church in the 1990s; a composer with a great gift for accessible, yet fresh, music, we present his setting of Psalm 51 tonight. Please enjoy this lovely contemporary composition and pray for the repose of the soul of this devoted servant of the Church! Finally, we present another Psalm 51 setting for the meditation after Stations. Samuel Sebastian Wesley (yes, of “those” Wesleys) was eldest son of Samuel Wesley, who himself was a convert to Catholicism (something not at all accepted in 18th Century England) who was a bit of a troubled soul. Nonetheless, he was probably the most notable English composer of his generation. S.S. inherited his father’s compositional gifts, as can be seen in this highly chromatic, very expressive choral anthem.

PLEASE JOIN US IN WORSHIP DURING TRIDUUM AND EASTER

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, MARCH 27: CHRISM MASS, 11:00AM*

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 29: EVENING MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER, 7:00PM*

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30: STATIONS OF THE CROSS, 12:00PM; REFLECTIONS ON THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST, 1:00PM; CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S PASSION, 3:00PM*

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 31: THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT, 8:00PM*

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1: MASS DURING THE DAY AT 8:30AM AND 11:00AM*

WEEKDAYS IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER: MASS AT 6:30AM AND 12:10PM

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, MONDAY, APRIL 9: MASS AT 6:30AM AND 12:10PM*

*INDICATES CHORAL SERVICES